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ORIENTATION-ERROR ACCIDENTS IN REGULAR ARMY UH-1 AIRCRAFT

DURING FISCAL YEAR 1968: RELATIVE INCIDENCE AND COST

Jorma I. Niven, W. Carroll Hixson, and Emil Spezia



**ARMY - NAVY**

**Joint Report**



U. S. ARMY AEROMEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

NAVAL AEROSPACE MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

October 1971

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**90 06 11 165**

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Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
MF12.524.005-5016BX1J

U. S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory

Approved by

Ashton Graybiel, M.D.  
Assistant for Scientific Programs

Released by

Captain N. W. Allebach, MC USN  
Officer in Charge

15 October 1971

NAVAL AEROSPACE MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY  
NAVAL AEROSPACE MEDICAL INSTITUTE  
NAVAL AEROSPACE MEDICAL CENTER  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32512

## SUMMARY PAGE

### THE PROBLEM

From the military mission viewpoint, the amount of research effort to be expended on the solution of a given aviation medicine problem must be keyed to the operational cost of the problem. Therefore, a necessary first step in the development of a solution is the assimilation of data that define the magnitude of the problem. Though orientation-error accidents involving pilot disorientation and vertigo have been long recognized to exist, little quantitative data are available to describe the actual incidence and cost of such accidents in Army aviation.

### FINDINGS

To initiate the action necessary to establish the magnitude of the orientation-error problem in Army aviation, an interservice research program was organized under the joint sponsorship of the U. S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, the U. S. Army Board for Aviation Accident Research, and the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory. The first task was the construction of an operational definition of an orientation-error accident. The assimilation of data pertaining to the incidence and cause of such accidents and their actual and relative costs in terms of fatalities, injuries, and aircraft damage was then set as the working objective of the program. Accordingly, the decision was made to implement a five-year longitudinal study of all major and minor orientation-error accidents involving Regular Army flight operations beginning with fiscal year 1967. Findings are being summarized on a fiscal-year basis in three separate lines of reports: The first line is devoted to defining the over-all magnitude of the orientation-error problem in all aircraft types; the second line to the presentation of similar incidence and cost data for accidents involving only the UH-1 aircraft, the predominant rotary wing aircraft in the Army inventory; and the third line to the description of the various causal factors found to be present in the major UH-1 orientation-error accidents.

This specific report is the second in the series dealing with the magnitude of the orientation-error problem in UH-1 aircraft. Incidence and cost data are presented for all major and minor orientation-error accidents involving Regular Army UH-1 flight operations that were detected in the search of the fiscal year 1968 accident files.

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The findings in this report are not to be construed as an official Department of the Army position, unless so designated by other authorized documents.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank Colonel R. W. Bailey, MSC, USA, Commanding Officer, U. S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, for his direction and assistance in the initial setup and structure of the project and for his continued support of its research objectives. The authors wish to thank also the director of the U. S. Army Board for Aviation Accident Research and his data processing staff for making the master accident files available for analysis and for compiling the all-accident and pilot-error accident statistics included in this specific report. In addition, we acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Linda Pearce of the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL) in the conduct of the orientation-error accident analysis program and to thank her for the sustained, always cheerful, working support she has devoted to the accomplishment of the project objectives. Other NAMRL personnel whom the authors wish to thank include Mr. A. N. Dennis and Mr. C. A. Lowery, both of the Bionics Branch, who assisted in the compilation and graphical layout of the data; Miss E. C. Marques of the Biostatistics Branch and her staff who checked the statistical calculations; and Mr. R. C. Barrett of the Visual Aids Branch who photographed the report figures.

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## INTRODUCTION

To investigate the operational role of pilot disorientation and vertigo in all orientation-error types of aircraft accidents, the authors have organized an interservice research program under the joint sponsorship of the U. S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory (USAARL), the U. S. Army Board for Aviation Accident Research (USABAAR), and the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL). Since few quantified data were available to describe the actual magnitude of the orientation-error problem in Regular Army flight operations, the decision was made to conduct a five-year longitudinal study, beginning with fiscal year 1967, of all Army aircraft accidents that involved an erroneous judgment of aircraft motion or attitude on the part of the pilot. Two separate, but related, project objectives were set for the longitudinal study. The first was to extract and assimilate data from the USABAAR master aircraft-accident files which would define the actual and relative cost of orientation-error accidents to Regular Army flight operations. These data, by defining the operational magnitude of the problem, would then serve to define the extent of the research support that should be devoted to its solution. The second working objective was to extract data on a case-history basis which would describe the various pilot/aircraft/mission/environment factors found to be present in each of the orientation-error accidents. Assimilation and analysis of these data over the study period would result in better knowledge of the most common operational causes of orientation-error accidents and thus point out those research directions which offer the greatest potential toward the reduction of accident incidence.

The results of the longitudinal study are being summarized in three separate lines of reports, with one report in each line prepared for each fiscal year of the five-year study. The first line of reports (for example, refs. 1 and 4) is devoted to defining the incidence and cost of all major and minor orientation-error accidents involving all aircraft types, fixed wing as well as rotary wing, that occurred in Regular Army flight operations for each fiscal year. Since the UH-1 "Huey" helicopter has been, and is, the predominant aircraft in the Army rotary wing inventory, the second line of reports (for example, ref. 2) is devoted to defining the magnitude of the orientation-error accident problem in only this aircraft. The layout and format of this line of reports are almost identical to those of the first line. The third line of reports (for example, ref. 3) deals exclusively with the various causal factors found to be present in all of the major UH-1 orientation-error accidents. Typical data to be presented include phase of flight, time of day, type of mission, pilot experience, physiological factors, psychological factors, facility factors, environmental factors, and the like.

This specific report is the second in the series dealing with the magnitude of the orientation-error problem in UH-1 aircraft. Incidence and cost data are presented for all major and minor orientation-error accidents involving Regular Army UH-1 flight operations that were detected in the search of the fiscal year 1968 accident files. In addition, corresponding cost data are presented for both all accident types, regardless of cause, and for pilot-error accident types so as to better establish the relative magnitude of the UH-1 orientation-error accident problem.



## PROCEDURE

A basic requirement for the commencement of this study was a workable definition of the class of accidents to be defined as involving orientation error. The reader is referred to previous reports (refs. 1-4) for a comprehensive definition and discussion of its rationale. Briefly, orientation is considered to involve the correct determination of the dynamic position and attitude of an aircraft in three-dimensional space. The key word here is dynamic, which implies that full knowledge of the motion as well as static attitude and position is required to define its instantaneous spatial orientation. Accordingly, a pilot is considered to have made an orientation error whenever his perception of the motion and attitude of his aircraft differs from the true motion or attitude; i.e., the true orientation of the aircraft. An orientation-error accident is then defined as one that occurs as a result of an incorrect control or power action taken by a pilot (or a correct action not taken) due to his incorrect perception of the true orientation of his aircraft.

With this definition of orientation-error accidents serving as a classification reference, an experienced classifier read all briefs in the USABAAR master accident files and selected all major and minor accidents of this type occurring during fiscal year 1968. For redundancy, the entire accident files were also searched by sifting the coded summaries that USABAAR prepares for each accident for a wide range of indicator terms.

The authors then reviewed the accident briefs independently for the purpose of establishing whether or not an orientation-error accident classification would result. In addition, the comprehensive master file on each suspect accident was obtained and reviewed. Whenever there was serious question as to the contribution of orientation error to the accident or where equally weighted alternative causal factors were present, then the accident was not included in the classification. The net effect of this policy is to give a conservative estimate of the magnitude of the orientation-error accident problem.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To place the operational significance of UH-1 orientation-error accidents in proper perspective, it is necessary to have at least a cursory understanding of the incidence and cost of UH-1 aircraft accidents in general. As with the first report (ref. 2) of the UH-1 series, this is accomplished as follows: The lead section below is devoted to describing the overall cost of all Regular Army UH-1 aircraft accidents, regardless of type or location, that occurred during fiscal year 1968. In a second section, equivalent data in a nearly identical format are presented to isolate those UH-1 accidents in the first section that were classified by USABAAR as involving one or more pilot-error factors. Incidence and cost statistics pertaining to UH-1 orientation-error accidents only are then presented in a third section. By using these three sets of data as independent references, it then becomes possible to derive some quantitative insight into the relative, as well as actual, cost of UH-1 orientation-error accidents in Regular Army flight operations. Selected comparative relationships are presented in the last section of the report.

To facilitate the point-by-point comparison of these fiscal year 1968 UH-1 data with corresponding data derived for other fiscal years of the longitudinal study, the layout and numbering of all tables and figures in this report follow identically those used in the previous UH-1 report (ref. 2).

## ALL TYPES OF UH-1 AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS

The data presented in this section describe the incidence and cost of all major and minor UH-1 helicopter accidents involving Regular Army flight operations during fiscal year 1968. Separate data groupings are provided for those accidents that occurred in Vietnam, those accidents that occurred elsewhere, and their combined total. Since the vast majority of the accidents that do not occur in Vietnam (VN) take place within the continental limits of the United States, the abbreviation US is arbitrarily used to denote all accidents that do not occur in Vietnam. It should be realized then that the US data grouping will include a small number of accidents that may have occurred, for example, in Europe, Africa, or elsewhere. A second point to be stressed is that the VN data pertain strictly to accidents, not losses due to enemy action.

In the interpretation of the accident statistics to follow, it becomes possible to compare VN and US accident incidence only when some common measures of aircraft utilization are selected as weighting factors. A similar requirement exists for comparison of accident incidence in one given fiscal year with incidence in other fiscal years. To establish such reference, percent aircraft inventory, total flying hours, and total aircraft landings are used as basic weighting data in this report. These data, as well as the incidence and cost statistics discussed in this section, are summarized in Table I.

The aircraft inventory data listed in Table I show that for fiscal year 1968, the average number of UH-1 aircraft operating out of VN was 58.51 percent of the total UH-1 inventory. This results in a VN/US inventory ratio of 1.41 to 1 for that fiscal year. The total flight hours and total landings data listed in Figure 1 show an even greater weighting factor for the VN operations; i.e., a VN/US total hours ratio of 3.03 to 1 and a VN/US total landings ratio of 2.25 to 1. Each of these ratios exceeds the corresponding ratios for fiscal year 1967. Thus for this fiscal year, aircraft utilization in terms of inventory, total hours, and total landings was greater in VN.

With these aircraft utilization data serving as background reference, it becomes possible to make a weighted interpretation of the raw accident data presented in Table I. Selected excerpts from these data are presented in Figures 2 and 3. The numerical incidence of all major and minor UH-1 aircraft accidents, regardless of type or causal factor, is plotted in Figure 2. The cost of these accidents, as measured by the number of fatal accidents, number of fatalities, number of nonfatal injuries, and aircraft dollar damage is outlined in Figures 3A through 3D, respectively.

In terms of the over-all UH-1 accident problem, these data show that during fiscal year 1968, there were a total of 565 accidents (85 of which were fatal), resulting in 313 fatalities, 737 nonfatal injuries, and a UH-1 aircraft damage cost of \$77,721,403.

TABLE I  
FISCAL YEAR 1968 DATA

ALL ACCIDENT TYPES

UH-1 AIRCRAFT ONLY

ACCIDENT INDEX	U.S. ACCIDENTS	VIET NAM ACCIDENTS	ALL ACCIDENTS	VN to US RATIO
Major Accidents	52	485	537	9.33
Minor Accidents	11	17	28	1.55
Total Accidents	63	502	565	7.97
Aircraft Inventory - Percent Total	41.49	58.51	100.00	1.41
Total Flying Hours	582,227	1,766,900	2,349,127	3.03
Total Landings	2,197,056	4,945,995	7,143,051	2.25
Major Accidents per 100,000 Hours	8.93	27.45	22.86	3.07
Minor Accidents per 100,000 Hours	1.89	0.96	1.19	0.51
Total Accidents per 100,000 Hours	10.82	28.41	24.05	2.63
Major Accidents per 100,000 Landings	2.37	9.81	7.52	4.14
Minor Accidents per 100,000 Landings	0.50	0.34	0.39	0.68
Total Accidents per 100,000 Landings	2.87	10.15	7.91	3.54
Total Dollar Cost	7,362,106	70,359,297	77,721,403	9.56
Average Dollar Cost per Accident	116,859	140,158	137,560	1.20
Total Fatalities	18	295	313	16.39
Average Fatalities per Accident	0.29	0.59	0.55	2.03
Fatal Accidents - Number	8	77	85	9.62
Fatal Accidents - Percent	12.70	15.34	15.04	1.21
Average Fatalities per Fatal Accident	2.25	3.83	3.68	1.70
Total Injuries (Nonfatal)	26	711	737	27.35
Average Injuries per Accident (Nonfatal)	0.41	1.42	1.30	3.46

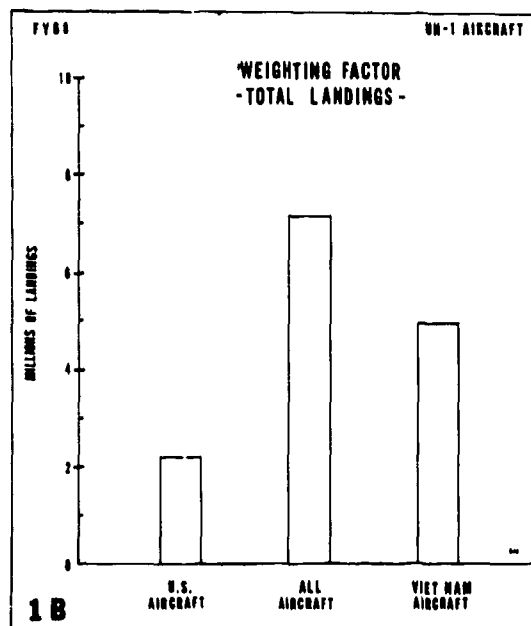
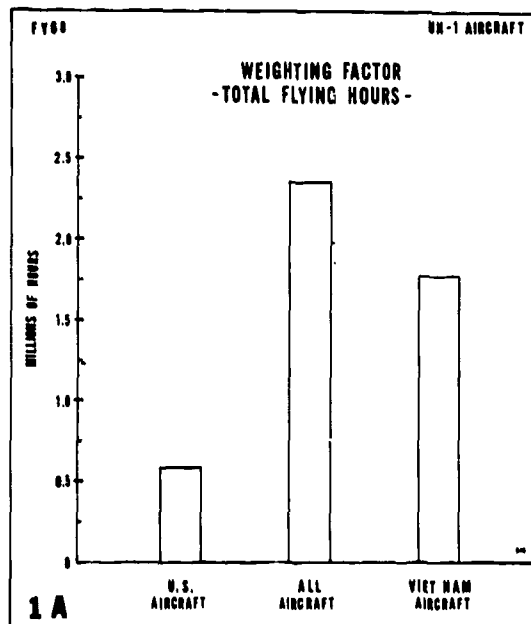
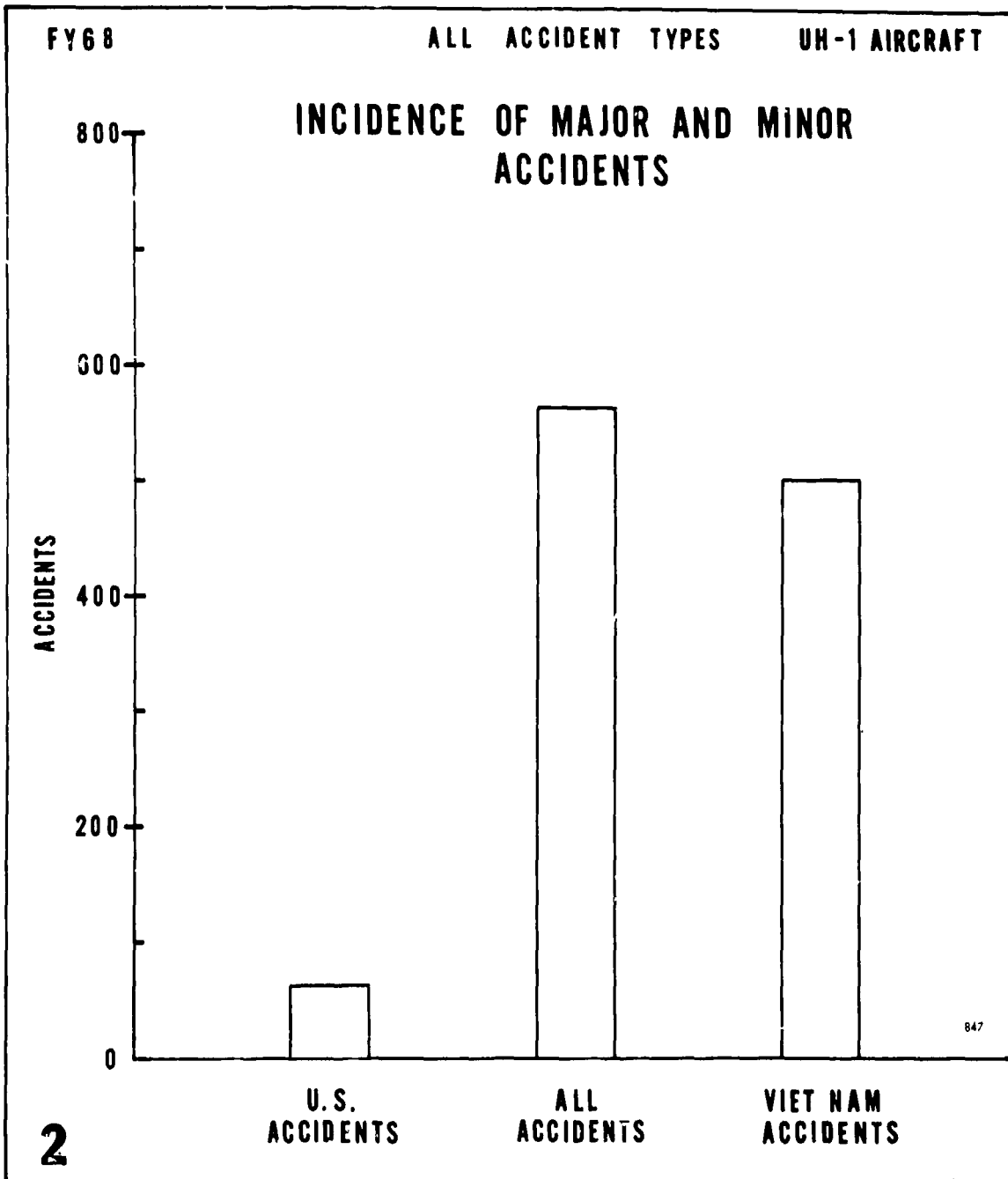


Figure 1  
Total flying hours (A) and total landings (B) by location of UH-1 (Huey) helicopter aircraft flown in Regular Army flight operations during fiscal year 1968. In 1A, the right-hand bar indicates total hours flown in Vietnam, the left-hand bar total hours flown elsewhere (primarily in the United States), and the central bar the direct sum of the adjacent data to either side. The format of the total landing data in 1B follows identically. For this year, 3.03 times as many hours were flown in Vietnam as were flown elsewhere. Correspondingly, 2.25 times as many landings were made in Vietnam as were made elsewhere.



**Figure 2**

All UH-1 Accident Types: Total number of major and minor UH-1 aircraft accidents of all types that occurred in Regular Army flight operations during fiscal year 1968. The right-hand bar denotes the number of UH-1 accidents that occurred in Vietnam, while the left-hand bar denotes the number of accidents that occurred elsewhere. This latter bar has been identified as "U. S. Accidents" for convenience since the vast majority of the accidents that do not occur in Vietnam (VN) take place within the continental limits of the United States (US). This convention applies throughout the remaining report figures. The central bar totalizes the adjacent VN and US data. As described in the text, the VN data pertain to accidents, not losses due to enemy action. The number of accidents that occurred in VN was 7.97 times the number of accidents that occurred elsewhere.

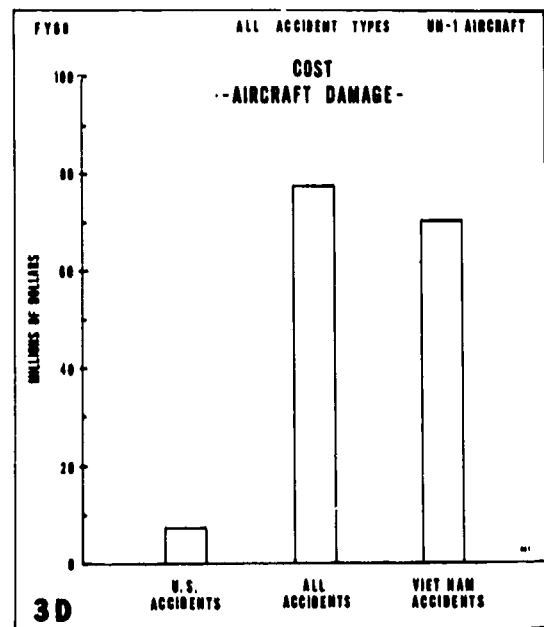
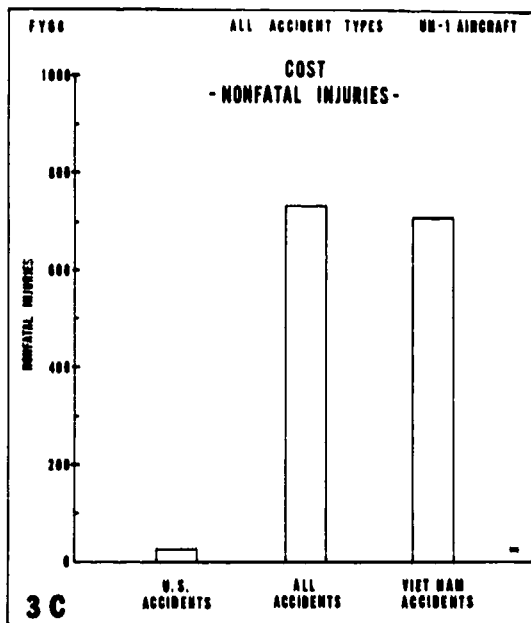
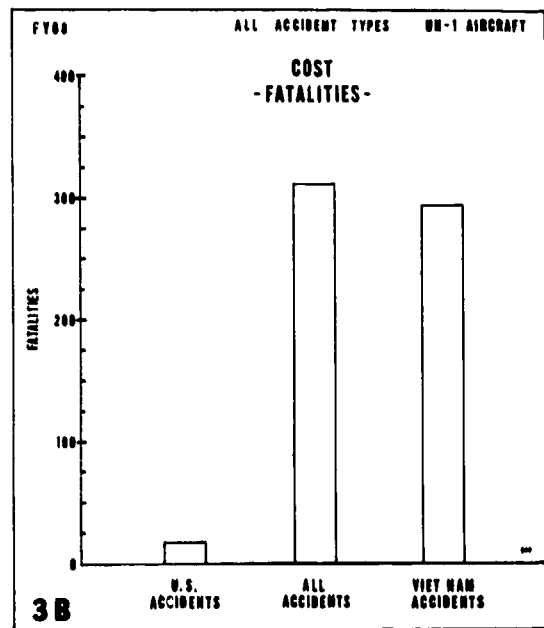
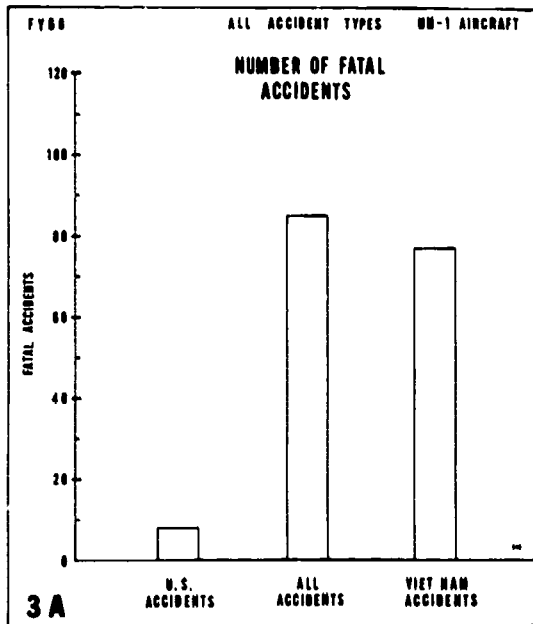


Figure 3

All UH-1 Accident Types: Total number of fatal accidents (A), total number of fatalities (B), total number of nonfatal injuries (C), and total dollar cost of resulting UH-1 aircraft damage (D). In all cases, the VN costs were greater.

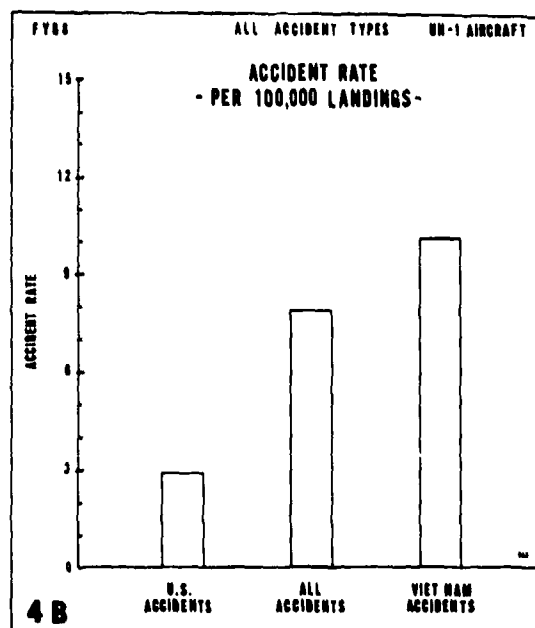
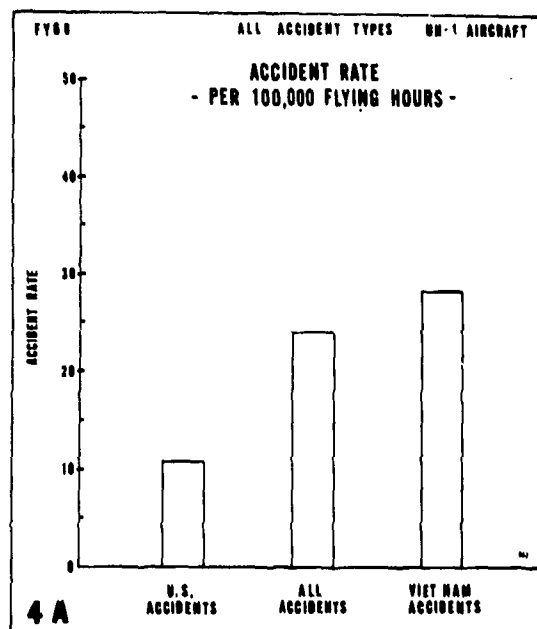


Figure 4  
All UH-1 Accident Types: Normalized incidence data showing the average number of UH-1 accidents per 100,000 flying hours (A) and average number of accidents per 100,000 landings (B). The over-all rates were 24.05 accidents per 100,000 hours and 7.91 accidents per 100,000 landings. The VN rate was 2.63 times the US rate using hours as reference, and 3.54 times the US rate using landings as reference.

The Vietnam contribution to these totals was 502 accidents (77 of which were fatal), resulting in 295 fatalities, 711 nonfatal injuries, and \$70,359,297 aircraft damage. In all cases, the unweighted incidence and cost of accidents occurring in VN exceeded those of accidents occurring elsewhere. That is, the VN/US accident ratio was 7.97 to 1, the VN/US fatal accident ratio was 9.62 to 1, the VN/US fatality ratio was 16.39 to 1, the VN/US nonfatal injury ratio was 27.35 to 1, and the VN/US average dollar damage per accident ratio was 1.20 to 1. In terms of total dollar damage, the cost of VN accidents was 9.56 times the cost of US accidents.

To facilitate the comparison of these fiscal year 1968 data with accident incidence data presented for other years of the study, the data in Figure 2 have been normalized relative to the total number of flying hours flown in each location and plotted in Figure 4A as the average number of accidents occurring every 100,000 hours. The same normalization using total landings as reference was accomplished for Figure 4B, which shows the accident rate for every 100,000 landings. Considering the total number of UH-1 accidents, these data show that, on the average, there were 24.05 accidents per 100,000 hours and 7.91 accidents per 100,000 landings. These rate figures are lower than the corresponding data for fiscal year 1967; i.e., 30.22 accidents per 100,000 hours and 8.98 accidents per 100,000 landings (ref. 2). The UH-1 data indicate, however, that even after normalization, the accident rate in VN remained substantially greater than that elsewhere. That is, the accident rate in VN was 2.63 times greater than the rate elsewhere using total hours as reference, and 3.54 times greater using total landings as reference.

## UH-1 PILOT-ERROR ACCIDENTS

In this section, incidence and cost data are presented for all UH-1 accidents that were classified by USABAAAR as involving one or more pilot-error causal factors. It should be observed that this classification does not imply that pilot error was the only, or even the primary, accident causal factor. That is, this grouping includes all UH-1 accidents involving one or more pilot errors even though, for example, material failure, maintenance shortcomings, or poor facilities may also have contributed to the accident. A further point, by definition, is that these pilot-error accidents are a subgroup of the all-accident statistics discussed in the previous section.

Incidence and cost data for these fiscal year 1968 pilot-error accidents are presented in Table II and Figures 5 and 6. These data show that there were a total of 358 major and minor UH-1 pilot-error accidents (51 of which were fatal), resulting in 175 fatalities, 499 nonfatal injuries, and \$48,939,669 aircraft damage. As with the all-accident data, the incidence and cost of pilot-error accidents that occurred in Vietnam were considerably higher than those which occurred elsewhere. From Table II it can be seen that the VN/US accident incidence ratio was 7.33 to 1, the VN/US fatal accident ratio was 24.50 to 1, the VN/US fatality ratio was 34.00 to 1, the VN/US nonfatal injury ratio was 18.96 to 1, and the VN/US average dollar damage per accident ratio was 1.28 to 1. In terms of total dollar damage, the cost of VN accidents was 9.37 times the cost of US accidents. When compared to the corresponding all-accident data, the VN/US



TABLE II FISCAL YEAR 1968 DATA				
PILOT-ERROR ACCIDENTS ONLY		UH-1 AIRCRAFT ONLY		
ACCIDENT INDEX	U.S. ACCIDENTS	VIET NAM ACCIDENTS	ALL ACCIDENTS	VN to US RATIO
Major Accidents	36	305	341	8.47
Minor Accidents	7	10	17	1.43
Total Accidents	43	315	358	7.33
Total Dollar Cost	4,717,546	44,222,123	48,939,669	9.37
Average Dollar Cost per Accident	109,710	140,388	136,703	1.28
Total Fatalities	5	170	175	34.00
Average Fatalities per Accident	0.12	0.54	0.49	4.50
Fatal Accidents - Number	2	49	51	24.50
Fatal Accidents - Percent	4.65	15.56	14.25	3.35
Average Fatalities per Fatal Accident	2.50	3.47	3.43	1.39
Total Injuries (Nonfatal)	25	474	499	18.96
Average Injuries per Accident (Nonfatal)	0.58	1.50	1.39	2.59

fatal accident ratio, as well as the VN/US fatality ratio, was considerably higher for pilot-error accidents.

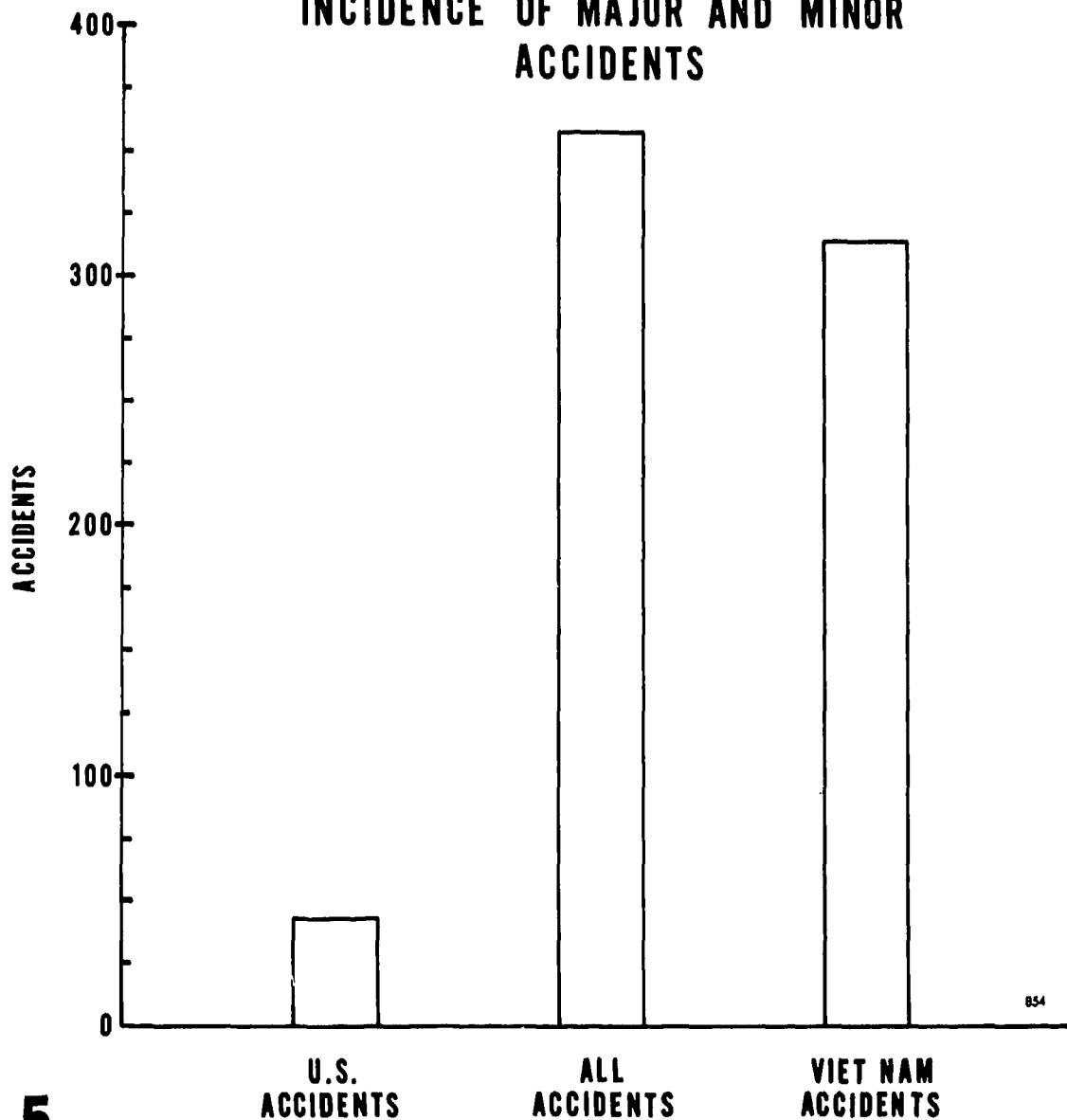
In Figure 7, accident rate data are presented using the total hours and total landings data of Figure 1 as normalization references. The over-all rates were 15.24 accidents per 100,000 hours and 5.01 accidents per 100,000 landings. These pilot-error accident rates are lower than the corresponding data for fiscal year 1967; i.e., 20.52 accidents per 100,000 hours and 6.10 accidents per 100,000 landings. In VN and US, the rates were 17.83 and 7.39 accidents, respectively, per 100,000 hours, resulting in a VN/US ratio of 2.41 to 1. With landings as reference, the VN and US rates were 6.37 and 1.96 accidents, respectively, per 100,000 landings, which results in a VN/US ratio of 3.25 to 1. These VN/US ratios were slightly higher than those observed for fiscal year 1967 (ref. 2).

#### UH-1 ORIENTATION-ERROR ACCIDENTS

This section summarizes the incidence and cost of all UH-1 major and minor orientation-error accidents detected in our review of the USABAAR accident files for the stated fiscal year. As detailed with selected qualifications in the procedure section of the first report in this series (ref. 2), this listing includes all accidents that were classified as involving incorrect pilot perception of aircraft motion or attitude. The reader should recognize that the orientation-error accidents discussed herein are a subgroup of the pilot-error accident statistics presented in the previous section.

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PILOT-ERROR ACCIDENTS ONLY UH-1 AIRCRAFT

INCIDENCE OF MAJOR AND MINOR  
ACCIDENTS

5

Figure 5

UH-1 Pilot-Error Accident Types: Total number of major and minor UH-1 aircraft accidents involving the presence of one or more pilot-error factors as classified by USABAAR. The number of pilot-error accidents that occurred in VN was 7.33 times the number of accidents that occurred elsewhere.

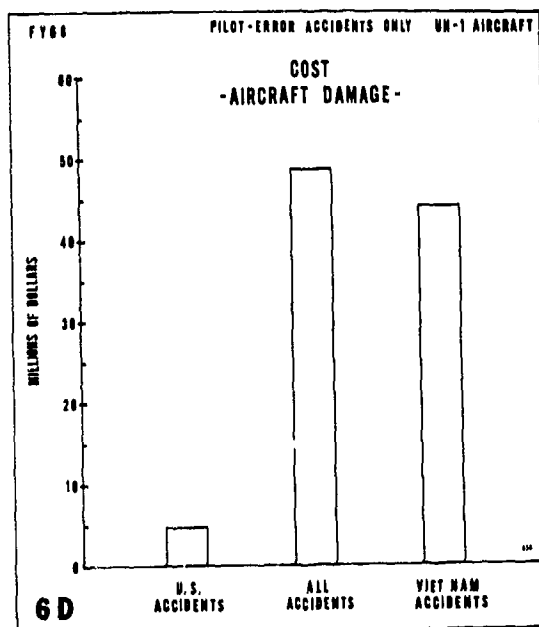
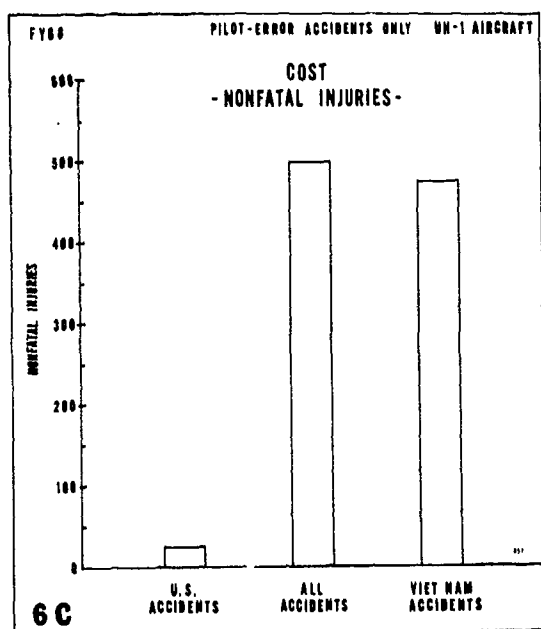
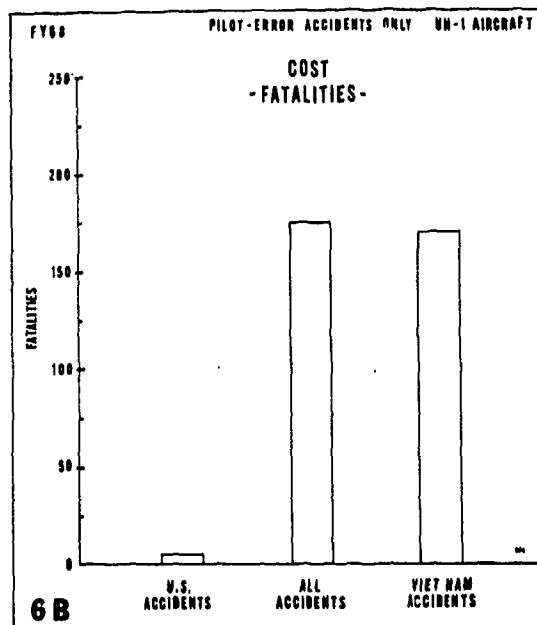
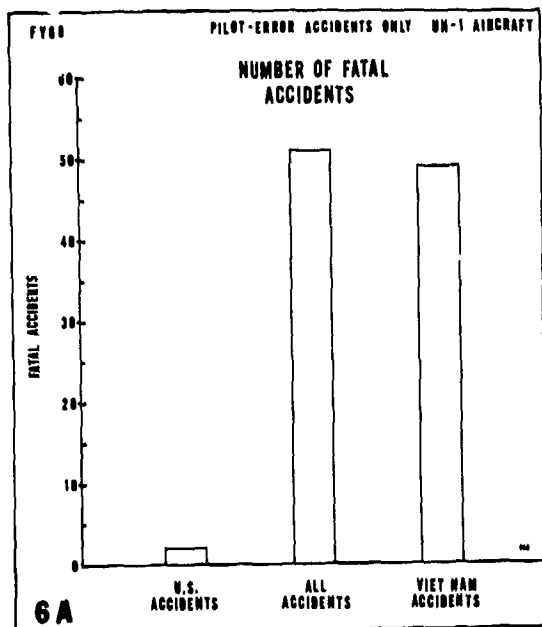


Figure 6  
UH-1 Pilot-Error Accident Types: Total number of fatal accidents (A), total number of fatalities (B), total number of nonfatal injuries (C), and total dollar cost of resulting UH-1 aircraft damage (D). As with the all accident data, the cost of VN pilot-error accidents was considerably greater than the cost of US accidents.

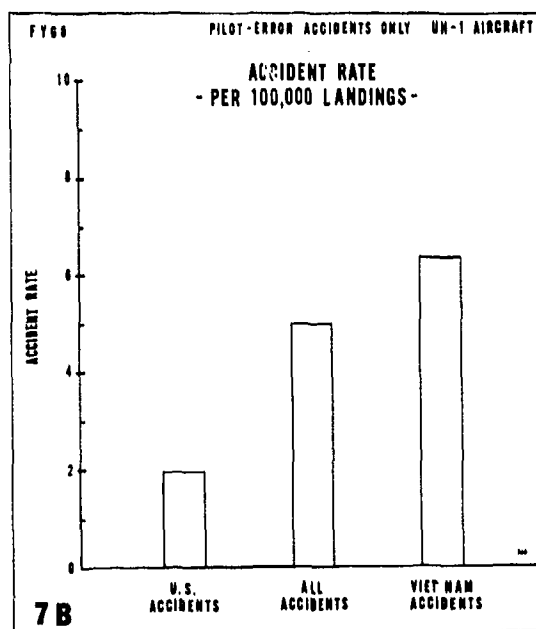
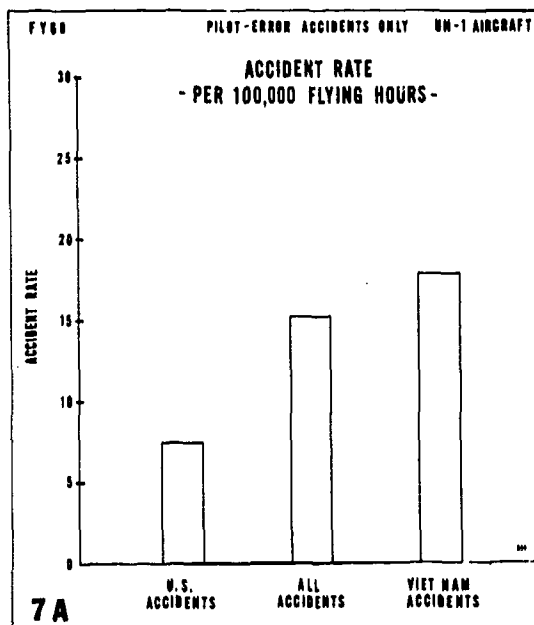


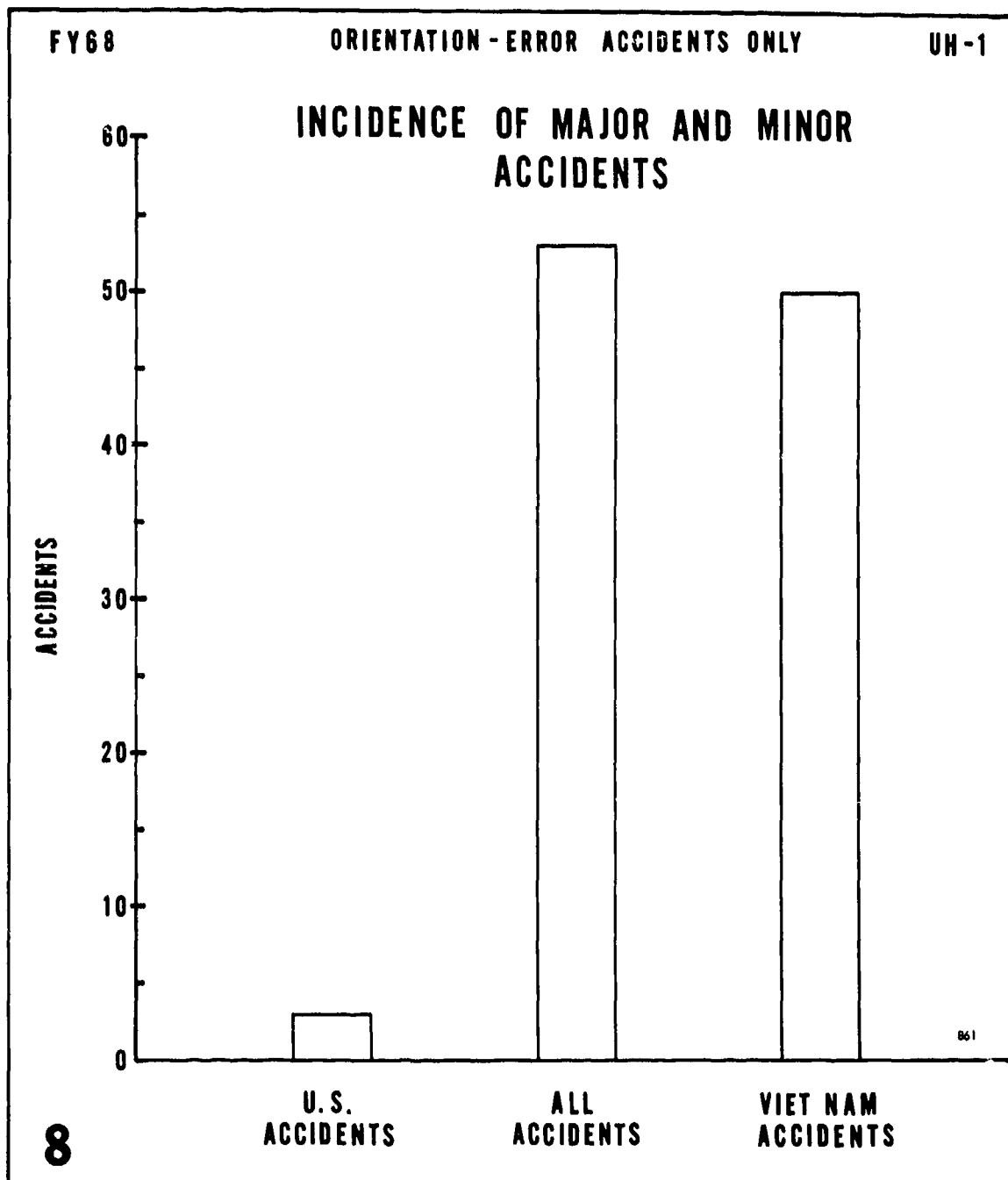
Figure 7

UH-1 Pilot-Error Accident Types: Normalized incidence data showing the average number of UH-1 pilot-error accidents per 100,000 flying hours (A) and average number of accidents per 100,000 landings (B). The total hours and total landings data of Figure 1 served as normalization reference. These rate data are intended only as a fiscal year 1968 baseline reference for comparison with similar data for other fiscal years of the longitudinal study. The over-all rates were 15.24 pilot-error accidents per 100,000 hours and 5.01 accidents per 100,000 landings. The VN rate was 2.41 times the US rate using hours as reference, and 3.25 times the US rate using landings as reference.

Incidence and cost data for these fiscal year 1968 orientation-error accidents are presented in Table III and Figures 8 and 9. These data show that there were a total of 53 major UH-1 orientation-error accidents (17 of which were fatal), resulting in 74 fatalities, 60 nonfatal injuries, and \$8,224,607 aircraft damage. For that fiscal year, there were no minor accidents. As with the all-accident and pilot-error accident data, the orientation-error data show a much higher accident incidence and personnel cost in VN; i.e., the VN/US accident incidence ratio was 16.67 to 1, the VN/US fatal accident ratio was 16.00 to 1, and the VN/US nonfatal injury ratio was 19.00 to 1. In the case of the VN/US average dollar damage per accident ratio, the 0.96 to 1 value indicates approximately equal cost in each location. With regard to total dollar damage, the cost of orientation-error accidents in VN was 16.01 times greater than the cost in US. In the interpretation of these VN/US ratios for that fiscal year, the reader should note that only a small number of orientation-error accidents occurred in US.

The accident rate data of Figure 10, derived from the total hours (A) and total landings (B) data of Figure 1, indicate that there was an over-all average of 2.26 and 0.74 orientation-error accidents per 100,000 hours and per 100,000 landings, respectively, for fiscal year 1968. These rates are lower than the corresponding rates for the fiscal year 1967 orientation-error accidents; i.e., 3.32 and 0.99 accidents per 100,000 hours and per 100,000 landings, respectively (ref. 2). As with the all-accident and pilot-error accident data, the orientation-error accident rate was greater in VN. Based on equal flying hours, the VN rate was 5.44 times the US rate; with equal landings as reference, the VN rate was 7.21 times the US rate.

TABLE III FISCAL YEAR 1968 DATA				
ORIENTATION-ERROR ACCIDENTS ONLY		UH-1 AIRCRAFT ONLY		
ACCIDENT INDEX	U.S. ACCIDENTS	VIET NAM ACCIDENTS	ALL ACCIDENTS	VN to US RATIO
Major Accidents	3	50	53	16.67
Minor Accidents	0	0	0	0.00
Total Accidents	3	50	53	16.67
Total Dollar Cost	483,513	7,741,094	8,224,607	16.01
Average Dollar Cost per Accident	161,171	154,822	155,181	0.96
Total Fatalities	4	70	74	17.50
Average Fatalities per Accident	1.33	1.40	1.40	1.05
Fatal Accidents - Number	1	16	17	16.00
Fatal Accidents - Percent	33.33	32.00	32.08	0.96
Average Fatalities per Fatal Accident	4.00	4.38	4.35	1.10
Total Injuries (Nonfatal)	3	57	60	19.00
Average Injuries per Accident (Nonfatal)	1.00	1.14	1.13	1.14



**Figure 8**  
UH-1 Orientation-Error Accident Types: Total number of major and minor UH-1 aircraft accidents involving orientation error that were detected in the search of the USABAAR master accident files for fiscal year 1968. Note that only three accidents occurred in US.

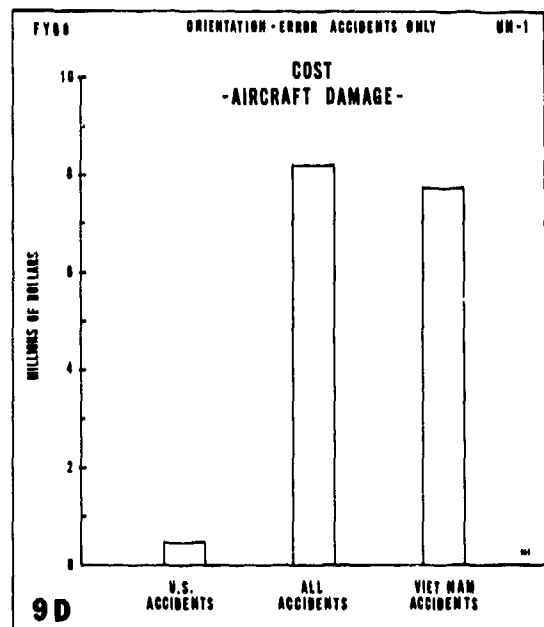
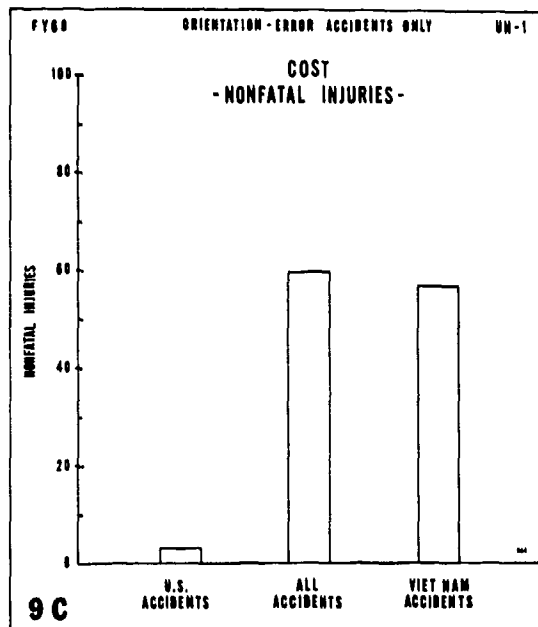
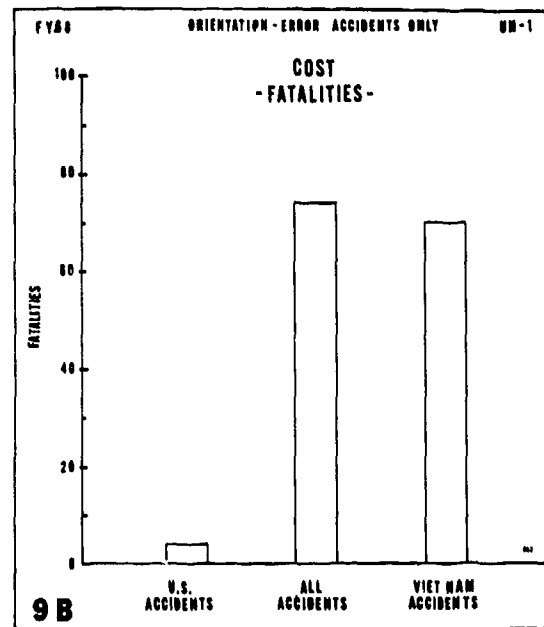
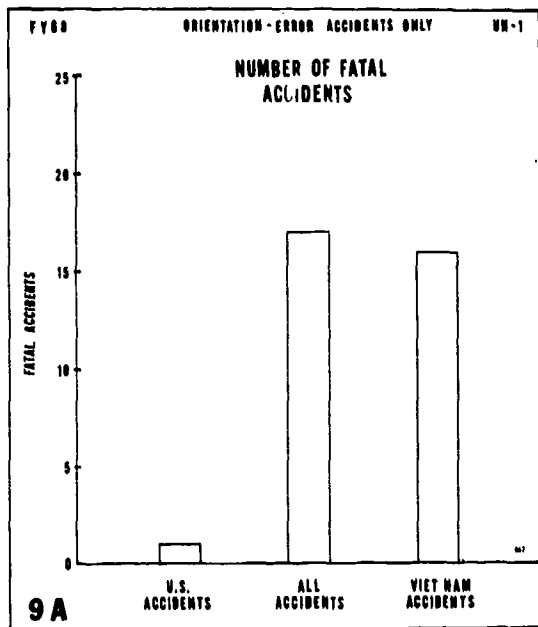


Figure 9  
UH-1 Orientation-Error Accident Types: Total number of fatal accidents (A), total number of fatalities (B), total number of nonfatal injuries (C), and total dollar cost of resulting UH-1 aircraft damage (D). The higher cost of VN operations is obvious.

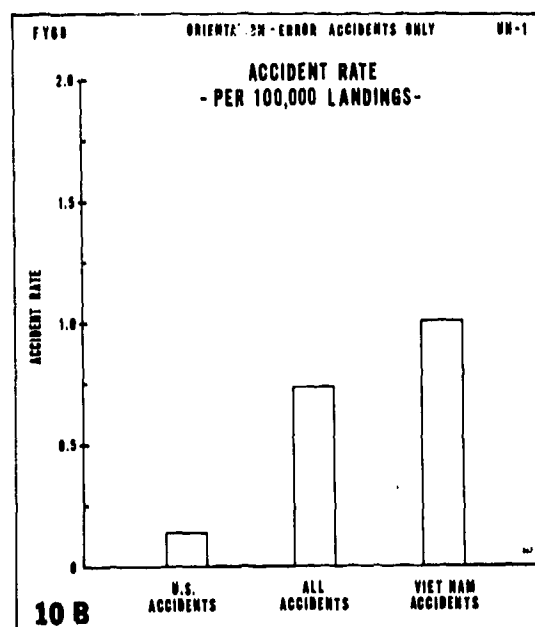
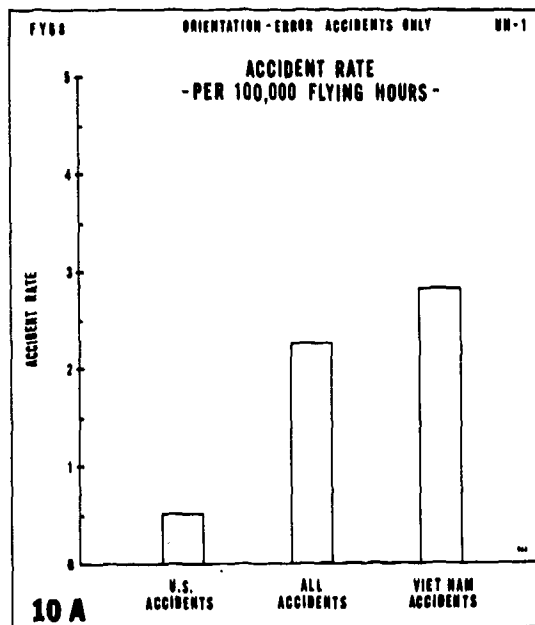


Figure 10

UH-1 Orientation-Error Accident Types: Normalized incidence data showing the average number of UH-1 orientation-error accidents per 100,000 flying hours (A) and average number of accidents per 100,000 landings (B). The total hours and total landings data of Figure 1 served as reference. These rate data are intended only as a fiscal year 1968 baseline reference for comparison with similar data for other fiscal years of the longitudinal study. The over-all rates were 2.26 orientation-error accidents per 100,000 hours and 0.74 accidents per 100,000 landings. The VN rate was 5.44 times the US rate using hours as reference, and 7.21 times the US rate using landings as reference.



## COMPARATIVE INCIDENCE AND COST OF UH-1 ORIENTATION-ERROR ACCIDENTS

The arrangement of the data presented in the preceding sections was selected to differentiate between the actual incidence and cost of all UH-1 accidents, pilot-error type UH-1 accidents, and orientation-error type UH-1 accidents. In this section, selected incidence and cost data are expressed in percentage figures, with the objective of gaining some insight into the relative contribution of orientation-error accidents to the over-all accident problem.

In Figure 11, the total number of fatal accidents occurring within each of the three accident classifications is expressed as the percentage of the total number of accidents occurring within the given classification. For the combined total of VN and US accidents, 15.04 percent of all accidents were fatal, 14.25 percent of all pilot-error accidents were fatal, and 32.08 percent of all orientation-error accidents were fatal. The probability of a fatal accident was highest when orientation error was present. However, as indicated in Figure 12, when a fatal accident did occur, the average number of fatalities that resulted was about the same for all-accidents and pilot-error accidents, and slightly higher for orientation-error accidents. In terms of the average number of non-fatal injuries resulting from an accident, as indicated in Figure 13, the injury rate was slightly less for orientation-error accidents and about the same for the two other accident classifications. The average dollar damage of an orientation-error accident was slightly higher, as shown in Figure 14. The relative magnitude of this damage can be assessed on the basis of the replacement cost of a UH-1 which then was about \$250,000.

In Figures 15 through 18, orientation-error accident statistics are expressed as their percent contribution to both the all-accident and pilot-error accident statistics. Thus, in Figure 15, the total number of orientation-error accidents is expressed as the percent incidence of the total number of all accidents and percent incidence of the total number of pilot-error accidents. For fiscal year 1968, orientation-error accidents accounted for 9.38 percent of all accidents and 14.80 percent of all pilot-error accidents.

As shown in Figure 16, the contribution of orientation-error fatal accidents to the over-all fatal accident problem was considerable. Of the total number of fatal accidents of all types, orientation-error accidents accounted for 20.00 percent. For fatal pilot-error accidents, 33.33 percent were due to orientation error. The same trend follows for total fatalities, as indicated in Figure 17. Fatalities due to orientation-error accidents accounted for 23.64 percent of all fatalities, and 42.29 percent of all pilot-error fatalities. In terms of the total cost of orientation-error accidents, they contributed 10.58 percent of the total cost of all-accidents, and 16.81 percent of the total cost of all pilot-error accidents (Figure 18).

As with the first UH-1 incidence and cost report (ref. 2), a related report will be prepared to describe the various accident factors found to be present in each of the fiscal year 1968 major UH-1 orientation-error accidents. The format of this report will be identical to that of the first factors report (ref. 3).

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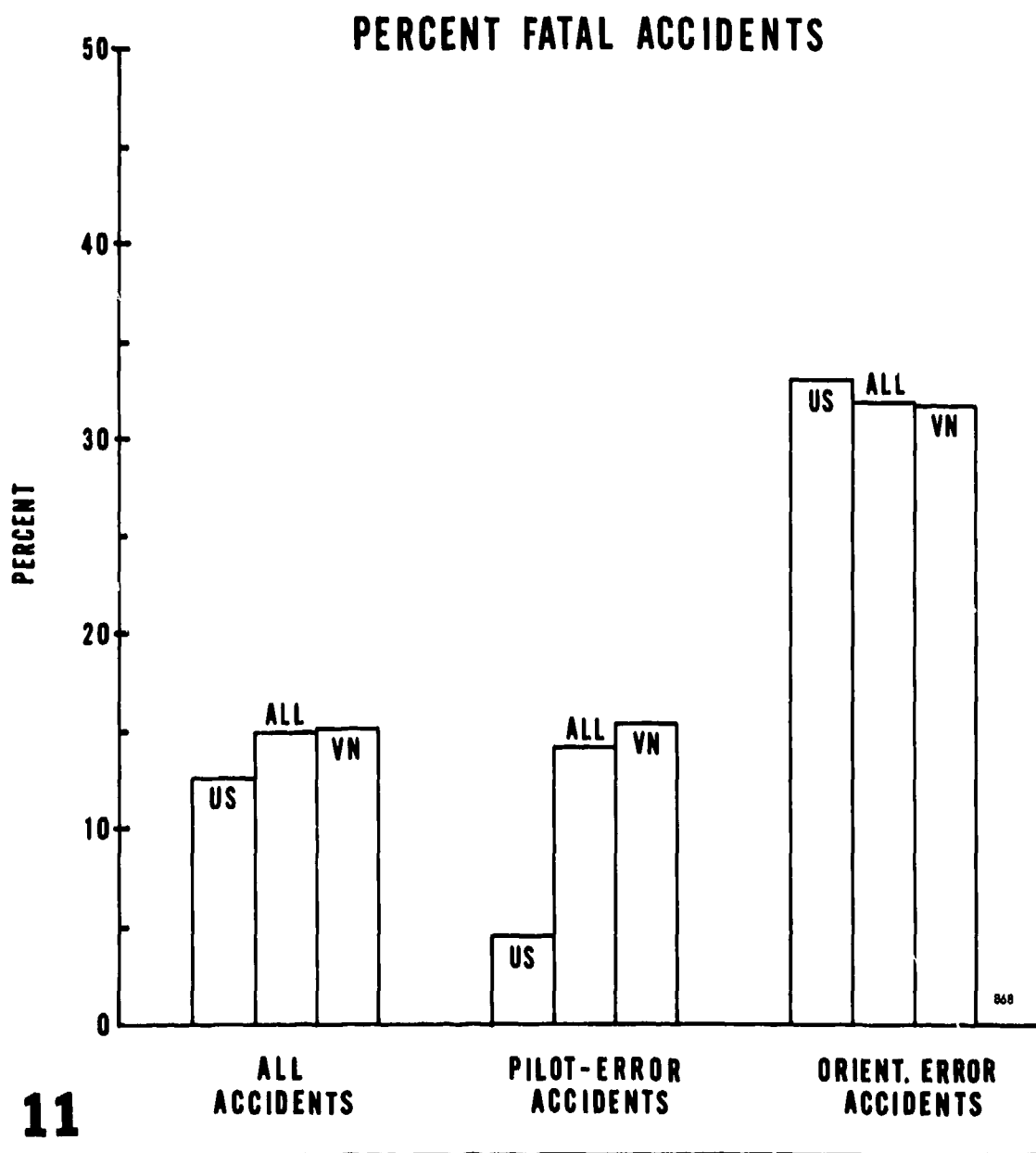


Figure 11

Comparative incidence of fatal accidents expressed as the percent of the total number of accidents within the "All Accident Type," "Pilot-Error Accident Types," and "Orientation-Error Accident Type" classifications that resulted in one or more fatalities. Orientation-error accidents had the greatest percent incidence of fatal accidents.

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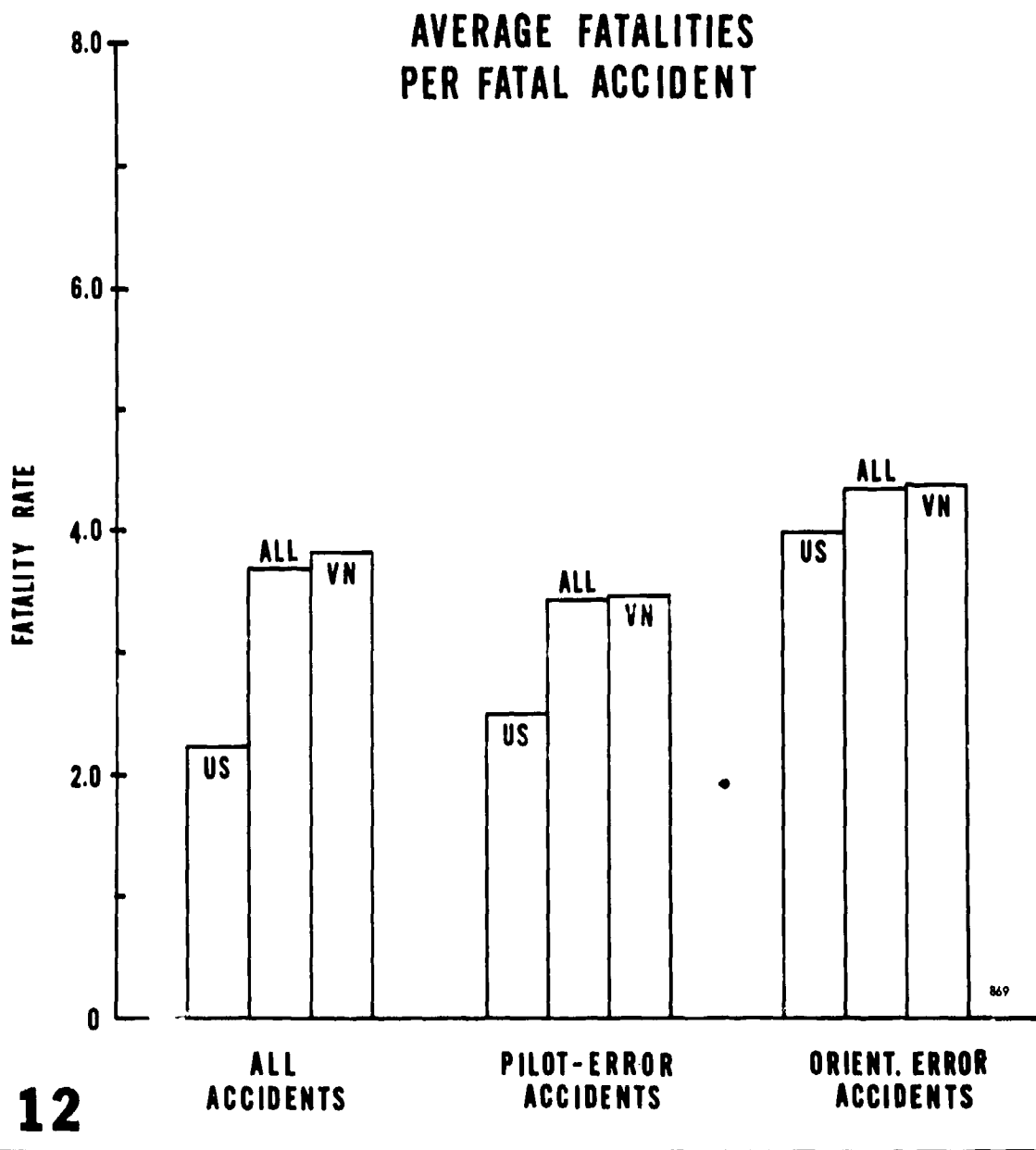


Figure 12  
Average number of fatalities per fatal accident for each of the three basic accident type classifications. This cost figure is slightly higher for orientation-error accidents.

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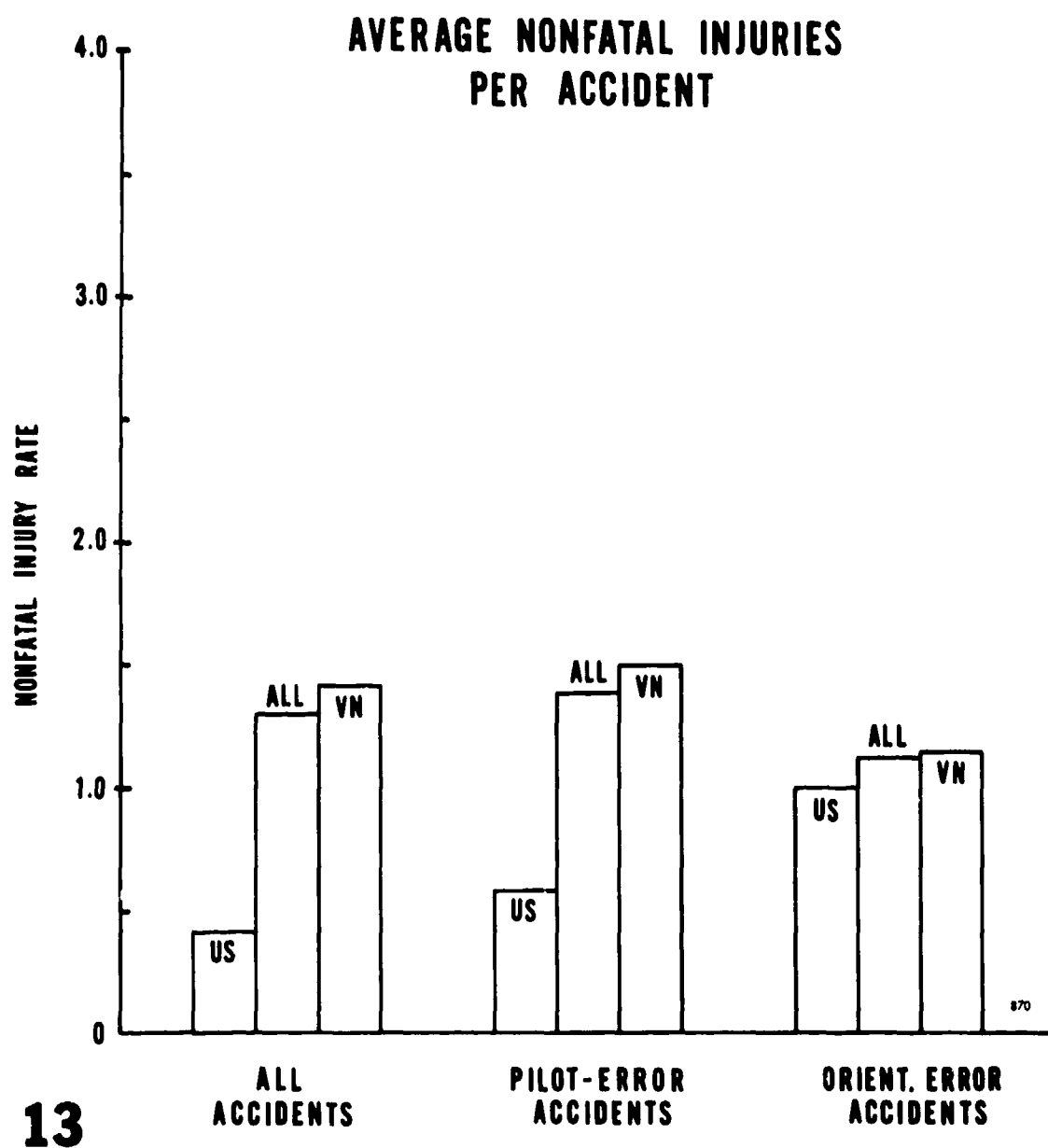


Figure 13

Average number of nonfatal injuries per accident for each of the three basic accident type classifications. In this case, the cost of orientation-error accidents is slightly lower.

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UH-1 AIRCRAFT

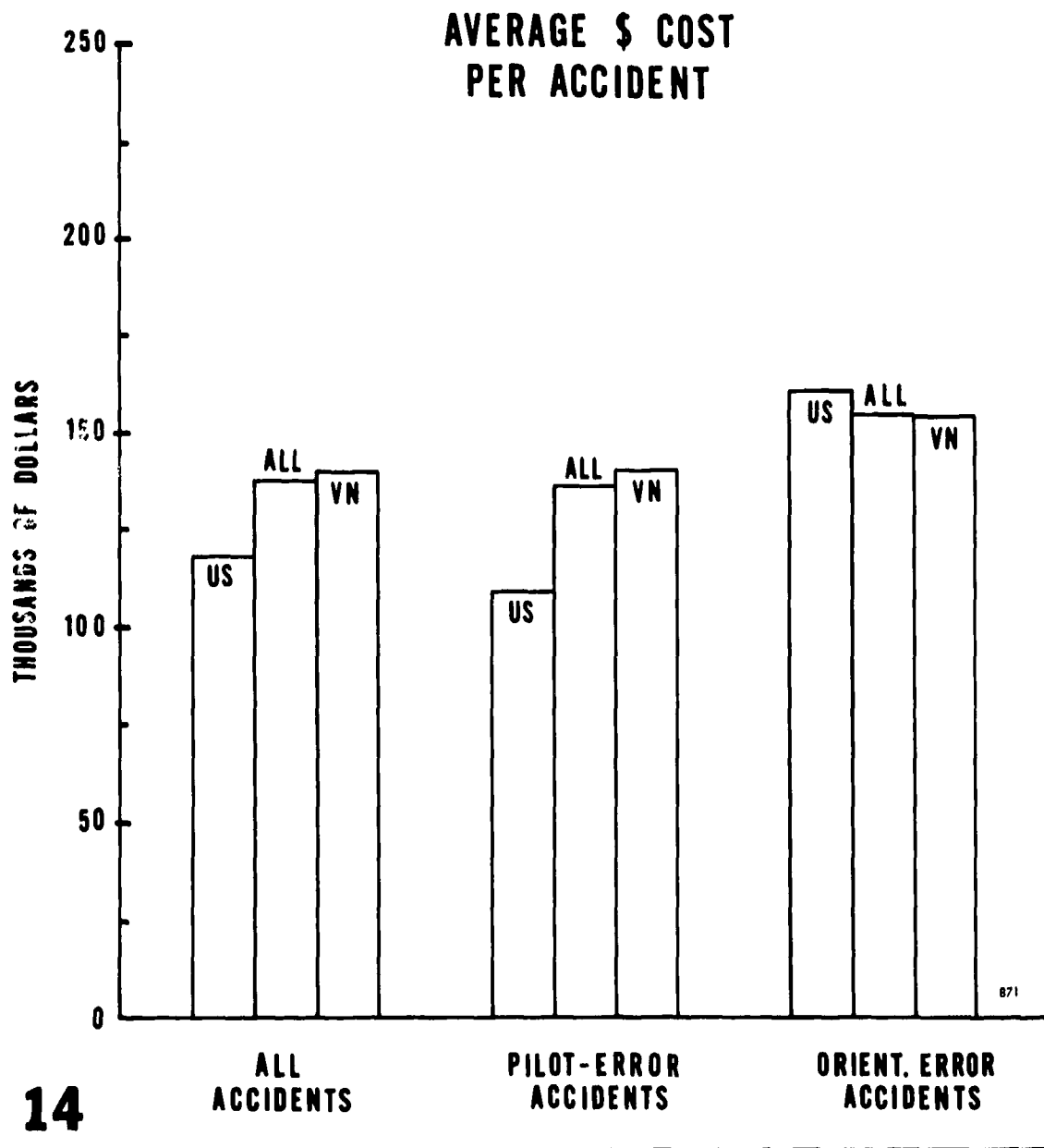


Figure 14

Average dollar cost of aircraft damage per accident for each of the three basic accident classifications. (Strike damage to a UH-1 aircraft approximates \$250,000.) The average cost of orientation-error accidents only slightly exceeds the cost of the other two accident classifications.

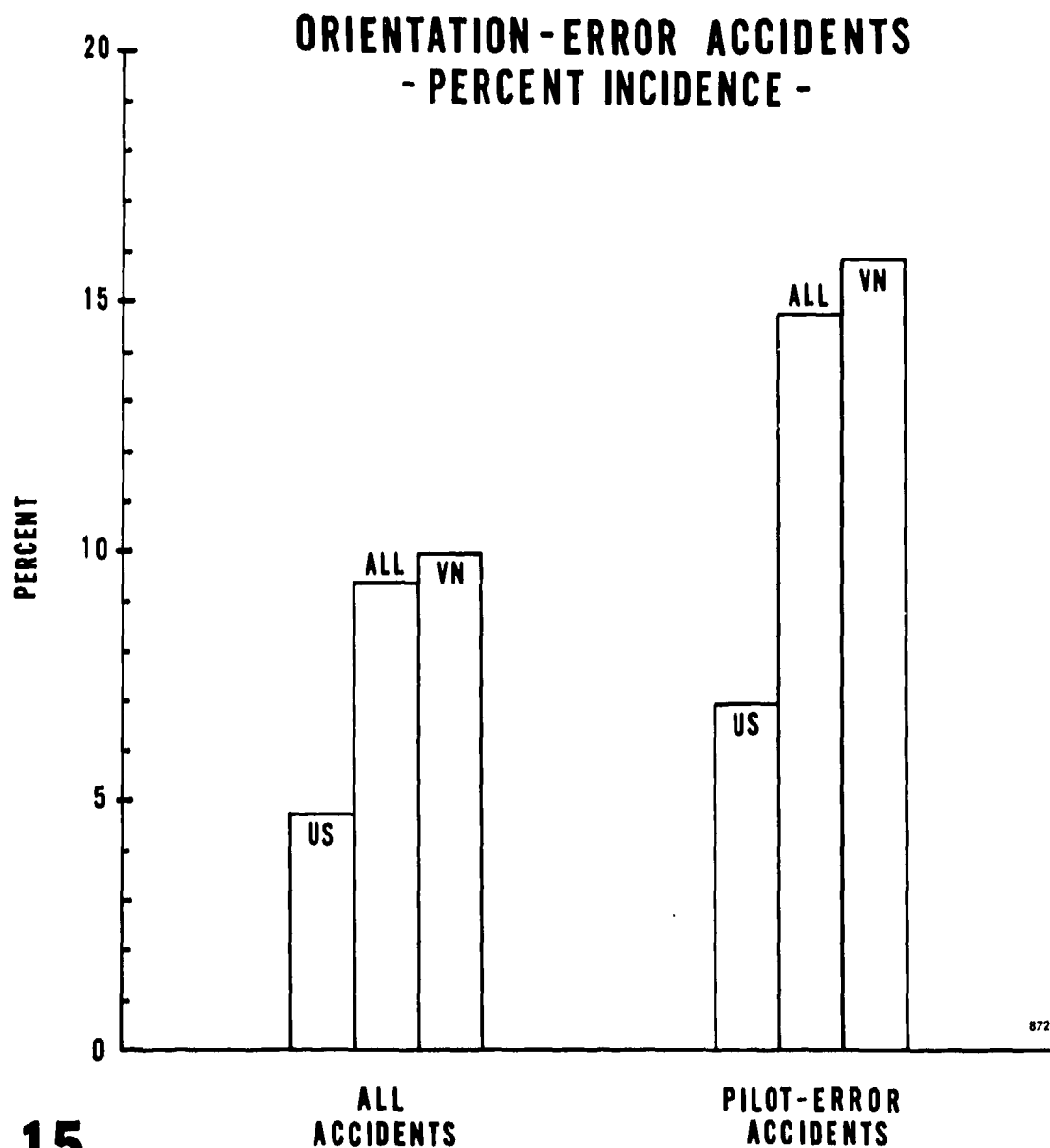


Figure 15

Percent contribution of all UH-1 orientation-error accidents to the total number of UH-1 accidents occurring within the "All Accident Type" and "Pilot-Error Accident Type" classifications. Orientation-error accidents accounted for 9.38 percent of all accidents and 14.80 percent of all pilot-error accidents.

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UH-1 AIRCRAFT

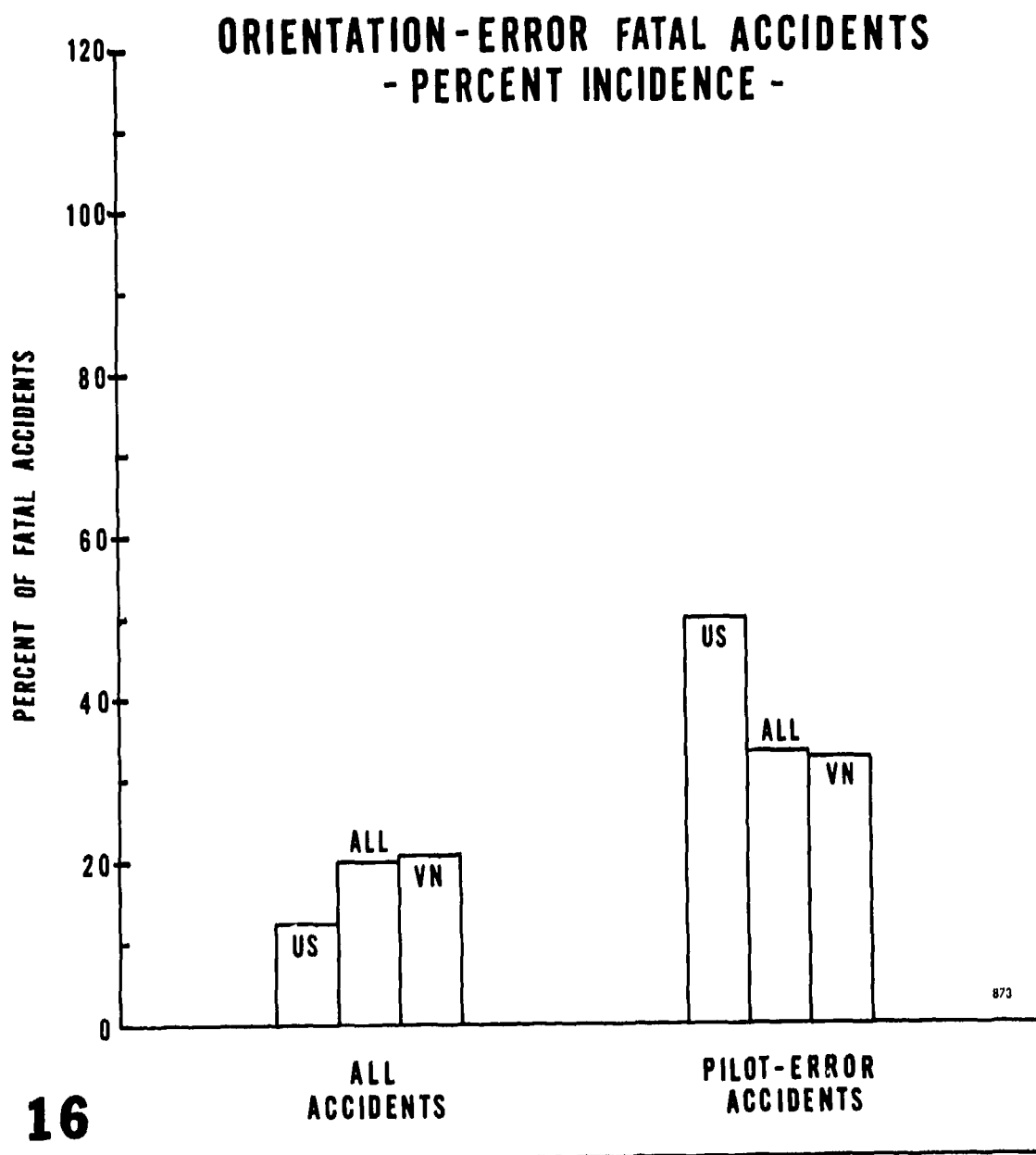


Figure 16

Percent contribution of fatal UH-1 orientation-error accidents to the total number of fatal accidents occurring within the "All Accident Type" and "Pilot-Error Accident Type" classifications. Fatal orientation-error accidents accounted for 20.00 percent of all fatal accidents and 33.33 percent of all fatal pilot-error accidents.

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UH-1 AIRCRAFT

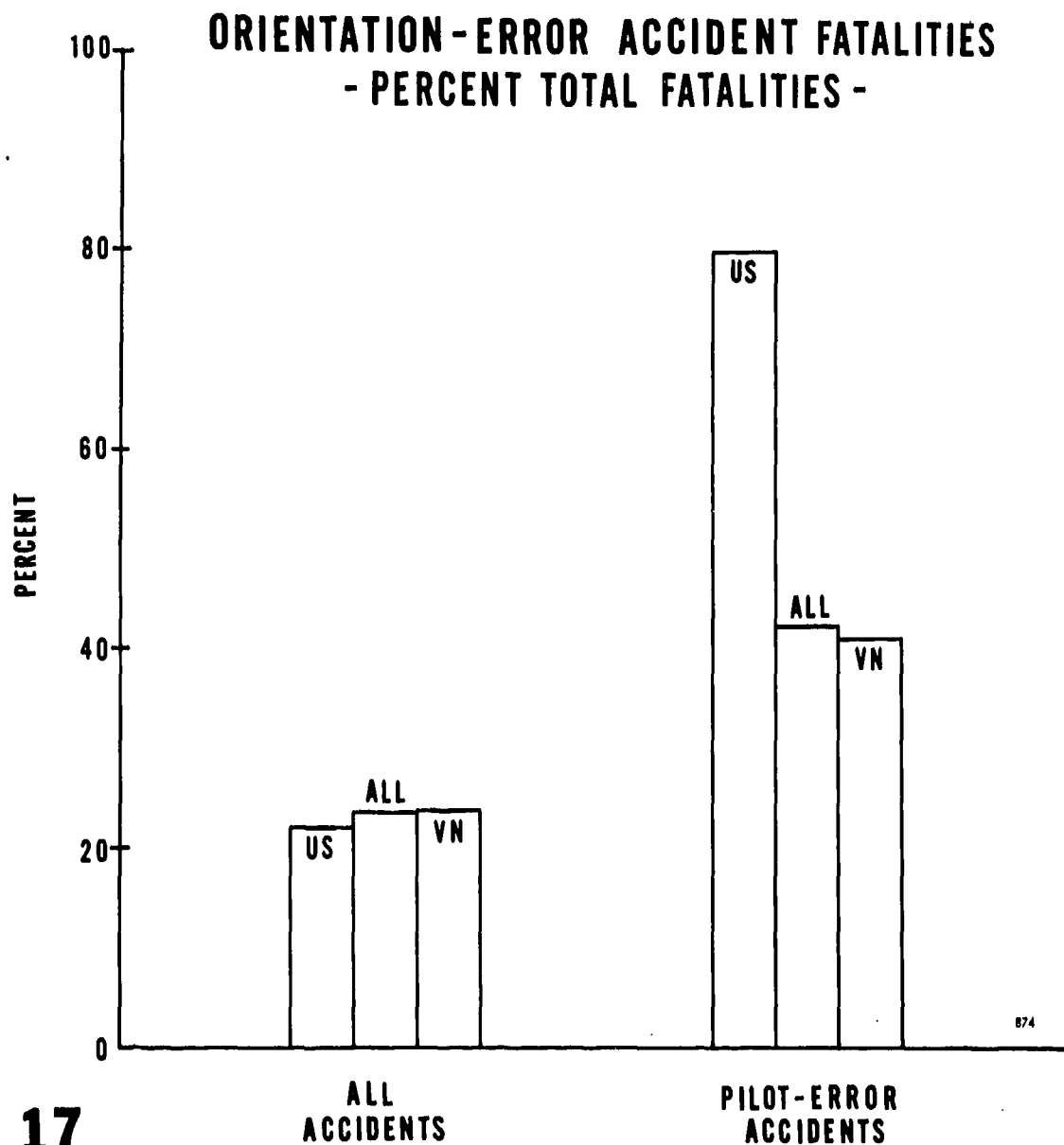


Figure 17

Percent contribution of all UH-1 orientation-error accident fatalities to the total number of fatalities occurring within the "All Accident Type" and "Pilot-Error Accident Type" classifications. Fatalities due to orientation-error accidents accounted for 23.64 percent of the total number of accident fatalities and 42.29 percent of the pilot-error accident fatalities.



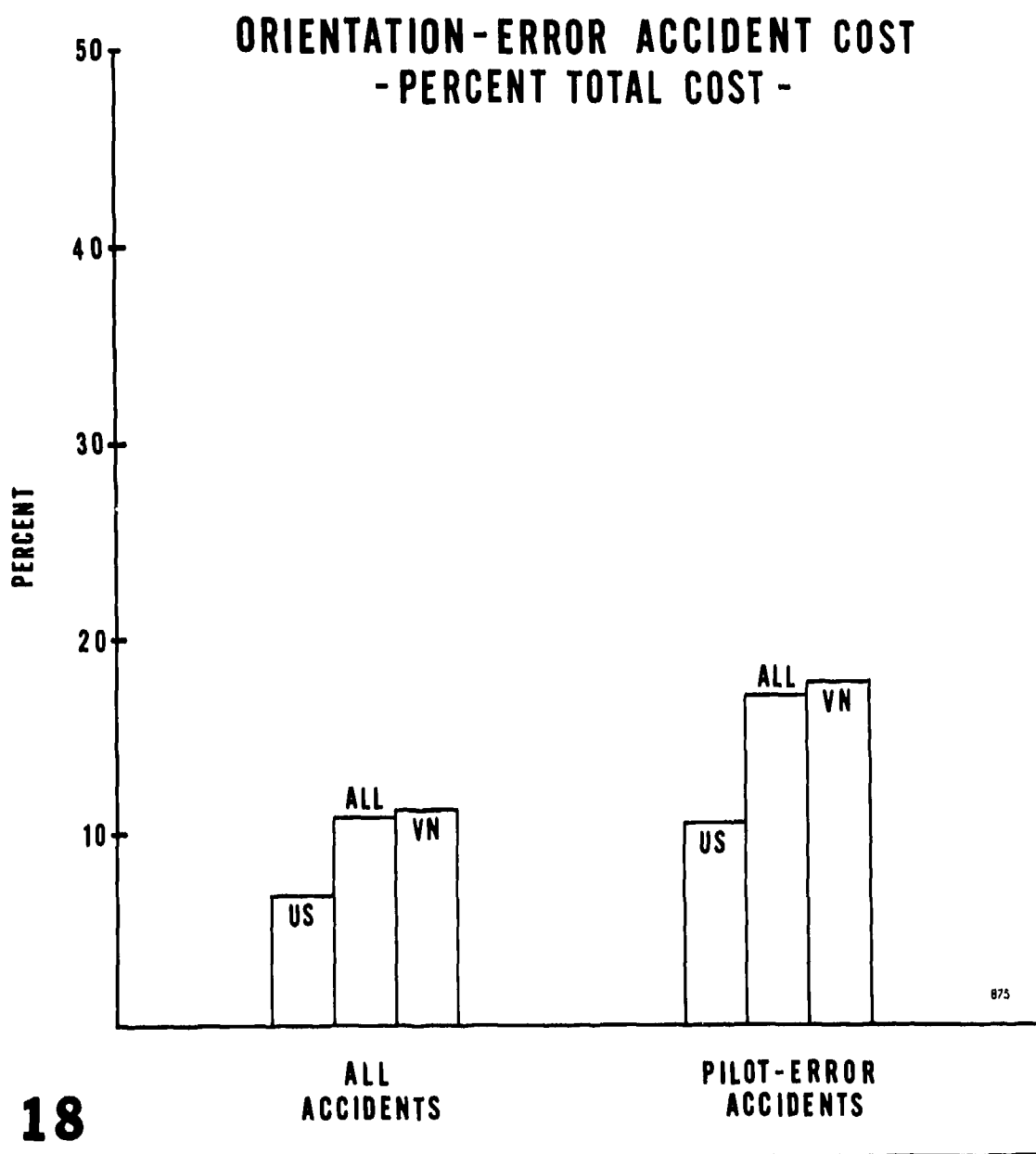


Figure 18

Percent contribution of the total dollar cost of all UH-1 orientation-error accidents to the total dollar cost of all accidents occurring within the "All Accident Type" and "Pilot-Error Accident Type" classifications. The dollar cost of orientation-error accidents accounted for 10.58 percent of the total cost of all accidents and 16.81 percent of the total cost of all pilot-error accidents.

At this point, no attempt will be made to draw any further conclusions as to the over-all significance of the results since corresponding UH-1 data are under preparation for subsequent fiscal years. The long-term value of these data will depend upon whether the longitudinal analysis does or does not establish the presence of consistencies or trends in the accident experiences. Moreover, it is the function of this element of the longitudinal study only to provide quantitative UH-1 accident data; the evaluation of the data in terms of their mission implications must remain with those responsible for direction of military aviation operations.

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Unclassified

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory Pensacola, Florida 32512		Unclassified	
		2b. GROUP	
		N/A	
3. REPORT TITLE			
ORIENTATION-ERROR ACCIDENTS IN REGULAR ARMY UH-1 AIRCRAFT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1968: RELATIVE INCIDENCE AND COST.			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)			
Jorma I. Niven, W. Carroll Hixson, and Emil Spezia			
6. REPORT DATE		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
15 October 1971		32	4
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
b. PROJECT NO. BuMed MF12.524.005-5016BX1J.8		NAMRL-1145	
c.		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.		USAARL Serial No. 72-5	
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
Joint project with U. S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Fort Rucker, Alabama			
13. ABSTRACT			
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(PAGE 1)

S/N 0101-807-6801

Unclassified

Security Classification

Unclassified

Security Classification

14. KEY WORDS	LINK A		LINK B		LINK C	
	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT	ROLE	WT
Army aviation						
Aircraft accidents						
UH-1 helicopters						
Aviation safety						
Aviation medicine						
Pilot disorientation						
Vertigo						

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